

1 Remarks

2 Amendments to the claims

3 Claims 4, 10, 13, 23 and 37 have been cancelled as indicated above. Claims
4 1, 5-7, 11, 14-16, 21, and 24-25 have been amended as indicated above. In
5 particular:

6 Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features and limitations of
7 claim 10 (now cancelled). Thus, since claim 10 originally depended directly from
8 claim 1, claim 1 (as amended) is now equivalent to claim 10 (now cancelled)
9 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (claim 1)
10 and any intervening claims. Also, claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor
11 typographical error as indicated by the Examiner on page 2 of the Final Office action.
12 The Applicants believe that claim 1, as amended, is allowable in view of the
13 indicated allowability of claim 10. Claims 5-7 have been amended to depend from
14 claim 1 (as amended). Claims 2-3, 5-9 (as respectively amended) are now allowable
15 at least by virtue of their dependence (direct or indirect) from allowable claim 1, as
16 amended.

17 Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13 (now
18 cancelled) which originally depended directly from claim 11. Therefore, the
19 Applicants believe that claim 11 (as amended) is allowable in view of indicated
20 allowability of claim 13. Claims 14-16 have been amended to depend from claim 11
21 (as amended). Claims 12 and 14-20 (as respectively amended) are now allowable
22 at least by virtue of their dependence (direct or indirect) from allowable claim 11, as
23 amended.

24 Claim 21 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 23 (now
25 cancelled) which originally depended directly from claim 21. Therefore, the
Applicants believe that claim 21, as amended, is allowable in view of the indicated
allowability of claim 23. Claims 24-25 have been amended to depend from claim 21

1 (as amended). Claims 22 and 24-28 (as respectively amended) are now allowable
2 at least by virtue of their dependence (direct or indirect) from allowable claim 21, as
3 amended.

4 No new matter has been introduced through the amendments to the claims.

6 Objections to the Claims

7 The Examiner has stated that claim 1 is objected to due to informalities (page
8 2 of Final Office action). Claim 1 has been amended as indicated above to correct a
9 minor typographical error. Specifically, the word "of" has been added line 6 of
10 claim 1. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 1 (as
11 amended) due to informalities be withdrawn.

13 Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

14 Claims 1-3, 9, 11-12, 18-22, 27-28 and 37 have been rejected under 35
15 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,272,131 ("Ofek").

16 In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 11, and 21 (as
17 respectively indicated and described above), the Applicants believe that rejected
18 claims 1-3, 9, 11-12, 18-22 and 27-28 (as respectively amended) are now allowable
19 and that the §102 rejection thereof is moot. As claim 37 has been cancelled
20 herewith, the §102 rejection of claim 37 is now moot.

22 Allowable Subject Matter

23 The Examiner has stated that claims 4-8, 10, 13-17 and 23-26 are objected to
24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten
25 in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and
any intervening claims (page 5 of Final Office action). As indicated above,
independent claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to include all of the limitations

1 of claims 10, 13 and 23, respectively, and any intervening claims. Thus, the
2 Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 11 and 21, as amended (and their
3 respective dependent claims, as respectively amended) are now allowable. Claims
4 4, 10, 13 and 23 have been cancelled as indicated above.

5 The Examiner has further stated that claims 29-36 are allowed. The
6 Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable
7 subject matter.

8 The Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability
9 of the indicated claims at page 5 of the Office action, without necessarily agreeing
10 with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, the Applicants believe
11 that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate
12 or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is
13 paraphrased.

14 15 Summary

16 The Applicants believe that this response constitutes a full and complete
17 response to the Final Office action in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116. The
18 Applicants believe that claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-22 and 24-36, as respectively
19 amended, are in condition for allowance without the need for further consideration on
20 the merits. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be
21 issued with respect to claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-22 and 24-36 (as respectively
22 amended).

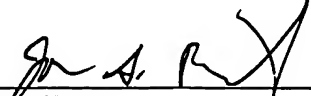
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1 The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed
2 representative if the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward
3 allowance of the claims.

4 Respectfully submitted,

5 Timothy P. BLAIR and Roger T. BAIRD

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7 Date: May 13, 2006

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